TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

GUINEA

(Republique de Guinee)

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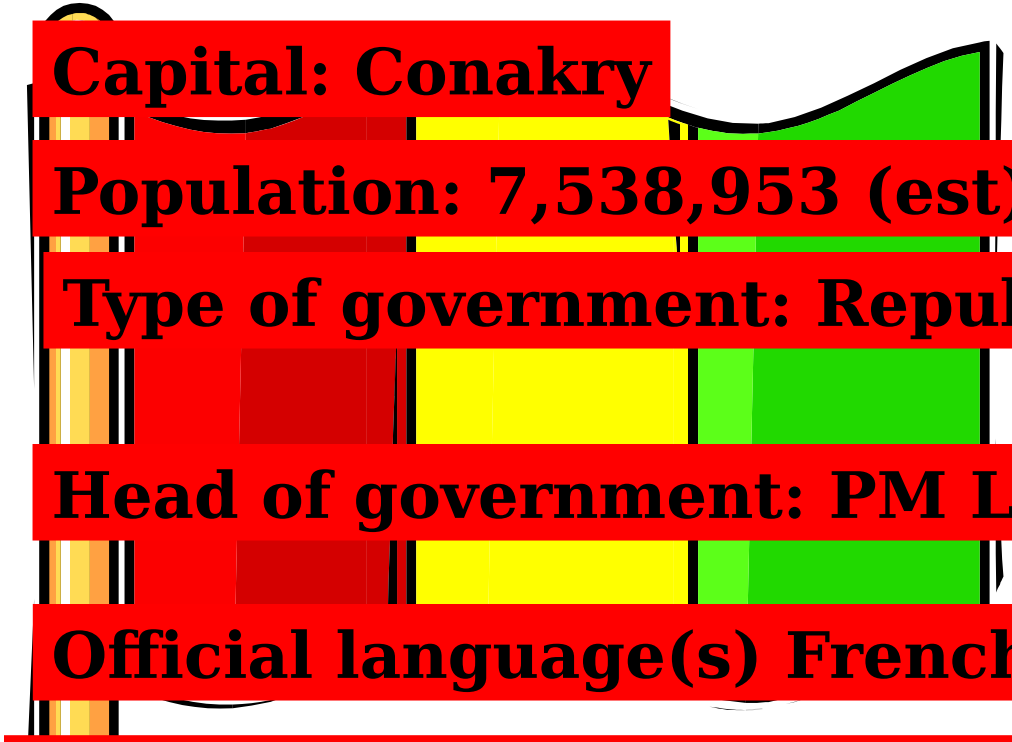
BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Guinea



Capital: Conakry

Population: 7,538,953 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Lamine Sidime

Official language(s) French

Economy: Agriculture-based

Religions: Islam (85%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

INTERNATIONAL

International Airport: Conakry

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Second Boulevard and Ninth Avenue, Conakry

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor. Rental vehicles wit available from agencies at major hotels in Conakry. Bush taxis, are not considered a safe alternative.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Guinea's road network, both paved and unpaved, is underdeveloped and unsafe. Roads and vehicles are poorly maintained. There are

ENTRY/EXIT

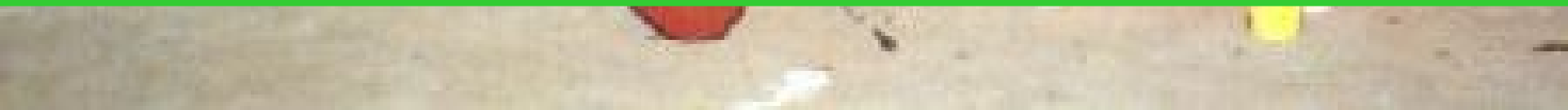
Travel Necessities: For official travel, no-fee passports are required. Passports are required for all travelers, including aircrew members. Military personnel are not encouraged to take leave in Guinea. If unusual circumstances necessitate taking leave in Guinea, personnel must have US passport with Guinean visa, military identification card, and leave orders. Personnel on leave status should notify the Amembassy in Conakry of their presence in Guinea. Personnel traveling on Regular (Tourist) passports are subject to rigorous customs. There is a $15 US airport departure tax. Visas are required if leaving airport. Visas are not available at airport except during a genuine emergency. Visas are valid for single entry Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: two cameras, ten rolls of film, jewelry, portable typewriter if necessary for work, cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player, and records.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Guinea is a developing West African country with minimal facilities for tourism. Travelers should make Conakry hotel reservations in advance.Visitors are advised to restrict photography to private gatherings. Explicit permission from the Guinean government should be obtained before photographing military and transportation facilities, government buildings or public works. Visitors should note that taking a photograph without permission in any public area may provoke a response from security personnel or offend the people being photographed. Obtain advance permission to import firearms. Several cellular phone services are available. A number of public phones operate by locally purchased phone cards. Telephones are available in Conakry and in other major towns and hotels. However, while privatization has improved the communication system

Amembassy operating hours are Mon-Fri 0730L-1600. During non-duty hours, contact Amembassy in person.



MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on imports of foreign currency or traveler's checks. Exports are limited to amount imported less expenses. No Guinea francs may be imported or exported Exchange at banks and some large hotels (hotel rates usually less favorable). Verbal declaration is required for extensive business transactions involving large sums. All travelers to Guinea are prohibited from having more than 5,000 Guinea francs (about four US dollars) in their possession when they leave the country. Credit cards are rarely accepted, except at the two major hotels in Conakry. Credit card advances are not available at local banks. Inter-bank transfers are possible at the "Bicigut," a local bank, but can be difficult and expensive.

Rate: Approximate: 1620 Guinea francs for $1.

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HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries.

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Guinea. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Diseases such as malaria, including cerebral malaria, hepatitis and intestinal disorders are endemic. The government of Guinea recommends taking malarial suppressants and using mosquito nets. Guinea is considered a cholera-infected area. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers over one year of age arriving from an

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Guinea. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through
Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Instability in neighboring countries can create tense situations in towns bordering Liberia and Sierra Leone. The borders between Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are strictly controlled. Leaving the country is easy but re-entry can be challenging even for US citizens. Boil water or purify with tablets and use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables with disinfectant; cook. Eat at recommended places. Guinea has experienced occasional civil unrest in Conakry, the capital, and in larger towns in all regions of the country. However, U.S. citizens have not been targeted to date in any demonstration-related unrest. Instability in neighboring countries can create tense situations on Guinea's borders. Regions bordering Sierra Leone are experiencing

CRIME

Criminal Activities: In an effort to counter urban crime, the Guinean government maintains countrywide roadblocks from midnight to 6 A.M. Residential and street crime is common. Banditry near the Sierra Leone and Liberia borders has also been reported. Criminals particularly target visitors at the airport, in the traditional markets, and near hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners. Visitors should avoid unsolicited offers of assistance at the airport or hotels as such persons may be seeking opportunities to steal luggage, purses or wallets. Travelers should arrange to be met at the airport by hotel personnel, family members or business contacts so as to reduce vulnerability to these crimes of opportunity. Commercial scams and disputes with local business partners have occasionally created legal difficulties for U.S. citizens. The ability of the U.S. Embassy to extricate U.S. citizens from illegal business deals is extremely limited.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the U.S. Embassy. Livestock Guinea is strict on: Firearms.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

M. Bertinrtti/Photo Researchers, Inc.

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CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: The coolest clothing possible is recommended. Lightweight fall clothing is suitable for cool winter evenings.

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This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

GUINEA